

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] Features of the collector 12 will now be described. As illustrated in Figs. 16-23, the collector 12 comprises a collapsible frame 28 having a material 30 mounted thereon. The material 30 may comprise or be made of any suitable material that is durable enough to withstand the impact of a ball being thrown at more than 90 miles per hour and yet flexible enough to permit the collector 12 to be folded in the manner described herein. The material 30 is mounted on the frame 28 by providing hems (not shown) along its border through which the frame 28 can be threaded. Alternatively, the material 30 could be provided with ~~Velcro®~~ VELCRO® brand hook and loop fasteners or snaps along its borders to permit the material 30 to be detachably fastened to the frame 28. This facilitates cleaning the material 30.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] The frame 28 further comprises rear tubular members 38 (Fig. 23) and 40 which are joined by a support member 42 and are pivotally coupled to the frame ~~members 38 and 40~~ 32 and 34 with brackets 44 and 48 as illustrated. The pivotal support or bracket 44 (Figs. 23 and 25) may be provided at the intersections of the various members, such as members 38 and 40, that make up the frame 28 to permit the member 38 to pivot relative to member 32, for example. Likewise, an end 40a of member 40 may be pivotally coupled to bracket 48 in order to permit the frame 28 to be collapsed and stored in the manner described herein.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] The collector 12 further comprises a ball speed sensor 76 (Figs. 17-20), that measures and displays a speed of the ball 16 thrown at the target 14 in miles per hour

(mph). The collector 12 comprises a front panel 78 (Fig. 16) that is pivotally mounted to member 60 and pivotal in the direction of arrow D in Fig. 16 so that the panel 78 may be moved to a stored position shown in Figs. 17-20. Note that when the panel 78 is in the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 16, it is slightly angled relative to the ground so that any thrown balls 16 that hit the panel 78 will be deflected into the collection area 12a of collector 12. Also, notice that the panel 78 may comprise a transparent window 80 to protect the ball speed sensor 76, while permitting the sensor 76 to capture a speed of a thrown ball 16. In the embodiment being described, the panel 80 is generally planar and made of transparent ~~Plexiglas~~PLEXIGLAS® acrylic sheet to enable the speed to be displayed on a display coupled to the sensor 76.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] As illustrated in Fig. 20, the frame members 32, 34 and 36 may be moved to a collapsed or closed position shown in Fig. 20. Although not shown, the member 36 may be integral with member 32 or 34 or joined thereto as described earlier herein. The member 36 may be provided separate from members 32 and 34. The ends 32a and 34a may be provided to comprise a concave shape in cross-section to receive the ends 36a and 36b, respectively, as shown in ~~Fig. 26~~ Fig. 25. A nut 190 and bolt 192 are used to secure the ends 36a to end 32a and end 36b to end 34a. The nut 190 and bolt 192 can be loosened to enable member 36 to be pivoted in the direction of arrow E (Fig. 19) to the closed position shown in Fig. 20. In an alternate embodiment, the member 36 may be pivotally coupled to members 32 and 34 by a bracket (not shown) to be folded down.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] After the floor 50 is moved to the stored position shown in Fig. 19, the member 36 of the frame 28 is moved to the collapsed or stored position shown in Fig. 20. If it is desired to lock the floor 50 in a stored position, a retainer 90 (Fig. 21) is provided and may be received in ~~aperture 92~~ aperture 93, as illustrated in Figs. 21 and 22. The

collector 12 has wheels 95 and 97 (Fig. 1) to permit the user to roll and move the collector 12.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] The system 10 further comprises the throwback unit 18 which will now be described. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the throwback unit 18 is situated adjacent to collector 12 and receives collected balls 16 through the aperture 68 of collector 12. The balls 16 are retrieved in a collection track, feed guide or trench ~~or grate~~ 92 (Figs. 2 and 11), which has a latch or hook 94 that is received by a mating U-shaped channel member 96 (Fig. 2), that is mounted on the member 58 of floor 50, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The track 92 comprises a first track 92a, a second track 92b and a pivotal coupling 92c for coupling the first and second tracks 92a and 92c together. The coupling 92c permits the unit 18 to pivot in the direction of arrows F and G relative to the track 92a. The throwback unit may be provided with a ~~cage 18~~ cage 19 surrounding wheel 24 as shown in Fig. 1.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] Referring now to exploded view in Fig. 11, the throwback-unit-90 unit 18 comprises the base 20, which has a pair of wheels 96 and 98 rotatably mounted onto brackets 100 and 102, respectively, with screws 104 and 106. The base 20 further comprises a post 108 on which a tubular handle 110 is mounted and may telescope. The tubular handle 110 comprises a grip 111 and a hand adjustable lock fastener 112 for securing the tubular member 110 to the post 108 after a user adjusts the handle 110 in the direction of double arrow K to a desired height. The grip 111 and wheels 96 and 98 enable the throwback-unit-90 unit 18 to be tilted in the direction of arrow G (Fig. 11) so that it can be rolled on the wheels 96 and 98 and moved to a desired location.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] The throwback-~~unit 90~~ unit 18 further comprises a first adjuster 114 (Figs. 1 and 12) for adjusting the throwback-~~unit 90~~ unit 18 to accommodate different sizes of balls 16. The adjuster 114 comprises a support post 116 having a tubular member 118 adjustably and slidably mounted thereon. The tubular member 118 comprises a pair of brackets or mounts 120 and 121 for providing a ball size as described later herein. The motor 22 is mounted on post 118 with bolts 122 as shown.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] As best illustrated in the sectional view shown in Fig. 12, the first adjuster 114 comprises a threaded member 132 that is threadably received in the threaded sleeve 134 that is integral with tubular member 118 such that when the crank or handle 136 of adjuster 114 is rotated, the tubular member 118 and drive motor 22 move in the direction of double arrow L as shown. After adjustment, a ~~threaded lock~~ threaded hand nut-tightener 144 (Fig. 11) may be used to lock the members 118 and 116 together.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] As illustrated in Fig. 11, to facilitate measuring a size of the ball 16, the throwback-~~unit 90~~ unit 18 further comprises a ball gauge 138 comprised of a first gauge member 140 and a second gauge member 142. The gauge members 140 and 142 receive the ball 16, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The rotatable handle or crank 136 (Fig. 12) is rotated until the members 140 and 142 engage the ball 16 until a distance, indicated by double arrow I in Fig. 5, is set to correspond to the diameter of the ball 16. After the adjuster 114 is set to the appropriate ball size, the ~~hand nut~~ threaded hand tightener 144 may be tightened to lock the member 118 to post 116.

Please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050]        The throwback-unit ~~90~~ unit 18 further comprises a visual ball-size gauge 146 comprising a pivotal gauge arm 148, as best illustrated in Fig. 3. The arm 148 has an L-shaped spring support 150 that receives a spring 152 that biases the arm 148 toward the tubular member 118 as shown. It should be understood that when the crank or handle 136 is rotated such that the tubular member 118 move in the direction of arrow L shown in Fig. 12, the bracket 121 cooperates with a projection 154 mounted on arm 148 to cause an indicator 156 to move along a top surface of bracket 120. The indicator 156 cooperates with indicia 158 (Figs. 7 and 10) to provide an indication of the size of ball 16 that is situated between the gauge and members 140 and 142 (Figs. 5 and 8). For example, note in Figs. 5-7, a ball 16 is situated between the gauge members 140 and 142 as shown. The crank 136 is rotated until the members 140 and 142 engage the ball 16 and the distance I generally corresponds to the diameter of the ball 16, which in turn causes a distance J (Fig. 6) between the wheel 24 and the guide 26 to be adjusted to correspond to the size of ball 16. Indicator 156 cooperates with indicia 158 to provide a ball size indicator.

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051]        Further to the illustration, Figs. 8-10 show a ball 16 of a larger diameter than that shown in Figs. 5-7. In this illustration, the rotatable crank 136 (Fig. 3) is rotated until the gauge members 140 and 142 are adjusted such that the height H generally corresponds to the diameter of the ball 16. As with the illustration discussed earlier herein relative to Figs. 5-7, the distance J between the wheel 24 and guide 26 is simultaneously adjusted to the correct ball size. As with the illustration in Figs. 5-7, note that the indicator 156 (Fig. 10) also simultaneously moves and cooperates with the indicia 158 to provide an indication of the ball 16 size. As with the smaller ball shown in Figs. 5-7, the indicator 156 and indicia 158 may be used to provide an initial rough adjustment of the distance J (Figs. 6 and 9) to the desired ball 16 size by rotating the crank 136 and using the indicia 156 to adjust the distance between the wheel 24 and guide 26. Next, finer adjustments may be made by actually placing a ball 16 between

the gauge members ~~138 and~~ 140 and 142 and rotating the crank 136 to the desired ball size.

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph:

[0053] The trajectory adjuster 160 comprises a post 162 (Figs. 11 and 13) comprising a threaded nut 164 (Fig. 11) mounted by conventional means, such as a weld, underneath the second gauge meter 142

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] Advantageously, this system and method provide a convenient baseball training system and method that provides a portable and collapsible collector 12 with a portable ball return or throwback unit 18. During use, a player may throw the ball 16 at the target 14. The ball 16 falls into the collection area 12a provided by the collector 12 and the angled floor 50 causes the ball 16 to be directed toward the aperture 68 in sidewall 71. The ball 16 falls onto the feed guide, track or trench 92 (Fig. 2), whereupon it is directed toward an area 27 (Figs. 2 and 4) between the guide 26 and wheel 24.

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] Advantageously, this system provides a convenient means and method for providing a portable throwback unit 18 that can be situated in operative relationship with a portable and collapsible collector 12. The throwback unit 18 can be adjusted to accommodate numerous ball sizes and can also be adjusted to return a ball along a pre-determined ball return trajectory. The baseball training system 10 can be used to return thrown balls to a player or multiple players by simply adjusting the location of the throwback unit 18. Also, it is envisioned that the unit 18 can be used as a field training device such that the throwback unit 18 can be positioned to throw balls 16 along different trajectories and any desired angle of ball 16 return relative to the collector 12. Because

the base 20 can be pivoted relative to the track 92, a trainer can use the grip 111 to adjust the position of the throwback ~~unit 99~~ unit 18 to direct it towards the player in the field. After the throwback unit 18 throws the ball 16 towards a first player, for example, the throwback unit 18 can be adjusted or moved so that it throws the ball 16 towards a second player in the field. For example, ground balls 16 may be thrown at a player in the infield or outfield who throws the balls 16 back toward target 14 and into the collection area 12a of collector 12, which again throws the balls to the player on the pre-determined or desired trajectory. Also, the trajectory can be altered as desired herein to throw line drives, shallow pop-ups, or ground balls.